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ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

# **Health Technology Assessment Unit**

**Report of Activities  
for  
1997 - 1998**



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**Health technologies**

*are the interventions and applied knowledge used by health care practitioners and systems throughout the entire spectrum of health care: primary prevention, early detection of disease and of risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. Included in health technologies are drugs, devices, medical and surgical procedures, and the organizational, administrative and support systems in which health care is delivered.*

(ISTAHC, April 28, 1997)

**Health technology assessment (HTA)**

*is the systematic evaluation of the properties, effects and/or other impacts of health technology. Its primary purpose is to provide objective information to support health care decisions and policy making at the local, regional, national and international levels.*



## Program operation

During the year April 1997 - March 1998, the Health Technology Assessment Unit further developed the health technology assessment program established under the Health Research Collaboration Agreement between the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and the Alberta Health Ministry.

The Unit undertakes assessments in response to requests which are related to health technologies likely to be of significance to Alberta. The Unit also initiates assessments when it becomes aware of important health technology issues. Sources of requests for the assessments undertaken in 1997/98 are shown in Table 1. Alberta Health and Regional Health Authorities continued to be important clients. As in the first full year of operation, a variety of categories of technology were assessed, as outlined in Appendix A.

**Table 1: Sources of requests for assessments completed or started in 1997/98**

<i>Source of request</i>	<i>Completed in 1997/98</i>	<i>In progress at end 1997/98</i>
Alberta Health	6	3
Regional Health Authorities	4	2
AHFMR - in house	1	3
Clinical Practice Guidelines program		2
Other HTA agencies		2
Consumers' Association of Canada		1

### ***Types of product***

Much of the Unit's work is concerned with secondary assessment - synthesizing the information from published work. There is also contact from time to time with primary data projects. The three series of HTA reports were continued. These consist of:

*Tech-Notes:* Brief reports which typically draw on limited reviews and analysis of the relevant literature. They are intended to provide short-term advice in response to urgent requests related to policy or administrative decisions. These publications are not externally reviewed.

*Health Technology Briefs:* Short publications intended to draw together the main issues on health care technologies for the information of policy-makers, health care professionals and others. Health technology briefs are subject to external review by persons with interest or expertise in the field being considered.

*Health Technology Assessments:* More detailed publications, often entailing more comprehensive literature and data review and levels of analysis.

The Unit also issued two short information papers during the year and continued publication of its newsletter, Techwise.

### ***Support for the program***

At March 1998, permanent staff at the Unit were Dr. David Hailey, Ms. Christa Harstall, Ms. Paula Corabian, Ms. Wendy Schneider and Ms. Francisca Swist, with Dr. Joanne Homik and Dr. Maureen Kwankam on short term appointments. The Foundation's librarian, Mr. Richard Thornley, closely supported most of the projects undertaken during the year.

Other persons who participated in projects involving the Unit are shown in Appendix B.

### ***Health Technology Assessment Advisory Committee***

This committee advises the Foundation on the development, support, review, updating, implementation and evaluation of Health Technology Assessment for the Province of Alberta.

The current membership of the Committee is:

Mr. Don Berry, Regional VP of Western Canada - MDS, Ingram & Bell  
Dr. Lyall Black, Regional Medical Officer of Health - East Central RHA  
Ms. Patricia Marck, AARN, Edmonton  
Dr. David Hailey, Director, HTA - AHFMR (Chair)  
Ms. Elaine Stakiw, Alberta Health  
Dr. Devidas Menon, Executive Director, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics, Edmonton  
Dr. Tom Noseworthy, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Public Health Sciences - University of Alberta  
Professor Miriam Orleans, University of Colorado, Denver  
Dr. Lloyd Sutherland, Head, Dept. of Community Health Sciences - University of Calgary  
Dr. Bryan Ward, Assistant Registrar - College of Physicians & Surgeons  
Dr. Hilary Wynters, Operating Officer, Promotion & Protection - Mistahia Health Region

The committee met in Edmonton in September 1997 and March 1998. At the first of these meetings, Alberta Health was represented by Mr. Mike Wevers, with Mr. Frank Fung attending as an observer.



## **Contact with other HTA activities**

### ***HTA in Alberta***

In September, the Unit hosted a meeting to discuss liaison on HTA activities in the province, with a particular focus on proposed activities of the Calgary and Capital RHAs. There was broad agreement on communication approaches, with linking of websites and inclusion of regional HTA articles in Techwise being seen as worthwhile actions.

There was continued close contact during the year with the Institute of Pharmaco-Economics. Following a request from Alberta Health, AHFMR and the Institute are developing a joint project on health technology and its effects on health care expenditures. Dr. Hailey and Dr. D. Menon, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics, presented a course on HTA as part of the Health Policy and Management Program in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta.

The Unit provided advice and information to a number of participants in the Foundation's SEARCH program who were undertaking HTA projects. Close contact was maintained with a telepsychiatry project, which was the subject of a report in the HTA series.

### ***HTA outside the province***

Frequent contact continued with Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA) in Ottawa, which remained a useful source of information. Dr Hailey served as a member of CCOHTA's Scientific Advisory Panel. Discussions were held with staff of the NWT Department of Health and Social Services on possible collaboration in assessment of telehealth.

Dr Hailey and Ms Harstall attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Health Technology Assessment Network, held at the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences, Toronto. They also attended the annual meeting of the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA), of which AHFMR is a member. The Network currently includes 25 agencies in 14 countries.. There was frequent contact throughout the year with INAHTA members and with other HTA agencies outside Canada. The Unit was given responsibility for coordinating an INAHTA project on assessment of telemedicine.

## **Assessments undertaken**

A full list of completed publications is given in Appendix C. Brief details of assessments are as follows:

*Telehealth* The report on assessment of telehealth applications was prepared as a resource document for health care funders, providers and administrators in Alberta who face decisions on the procurement and use of this technology.



Discussion on assessment covers specification, performance measures, outcomes, summary measures, operational considerations and use of cost analysis. Telepsychiatry and teleradiology are used as examples to provide further details of assessment elements.

The publication on evaluation of a telepsychiatry pilot project provides details of work undertaken by the Provincial Mental Health Advisory Board-Central Alberta in cooperation with four Regional Health Authorities. Survey data suggested strong acceptance and satisfaction by consumers, service providers and psychiatric consultants. It was suggested that the use of video conferencing equipment for psychiatric consultations should be considered when planning for an integrated community-based mental health service.

*Rehabilitation technologies.* Assessments of computerized dynamic posturography (CDP) and computerized gait analysis were undertaken to provide input into funding decisions by a rehabilitation department. It was found that neither was an established technology in the applications being considered. It was recommended that they should be regarded as developmental, with any utilization linked to well-defined data collection protocols and to appropriate patient selection criteria.

*Treatments for cancer and cerebral abnormalities.* Two reports were prepared in response to requests from Alberta Health regarding referral of patients for treatment outside the province. The assessment of stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) found that the quality of the available evidence on its effectiveness is still limited. It may be appropriate for selected patients and is a good option for those who are not eligible for surgery. When costs of out of province referral are considered, establishment of SRS in Alberta appears to be a worthwhile option.

The Tech-Note on brachytherapy for treatment of prostate cancer noted that the quality of evidence on effectiveness is still comparatively limited, particularly for longer-term outcomes. Techniques are still evolving and levels of skill will vary between centres.

The brief on percutaneous ethanol injection therapy (PEIT) for hepatic cancer found that it is a readily repeatable, low-cost treatment, associated with low treatment-related morbidity and mortality and the ability to spare non-cancerous hepatic tissue. Limited available evidence suggests that carefully selected patients with hepatocellular carcinoma may benefit from PEIT, but that it does not appear to be an effective treatment for hepatic metastasis.

*Aspirin in primary prevention.* A brief was prepared following a request from Alberta Health regarding the prophylactic use of aspirin in the primary prevention of myocardial infarction, stroke and colon cancer. There is insufficient evidence to support the prophylactic use of aspirin in the general population to reduce the risk of these conditions. ASA prophylaxis is effective in various groups who are at high risk for cardiovascular disease.

A Tech-Note on *air plethysmography* found that its role as a diagnostic tool for venous evaluation has not been evaluated in well-designed clinical trials. Further evidence is needed on its incremental costs and benefits and on its use in routine clinical practice.

The note on *extracorporeal life support (ECLS) for children and adults* reported that it appears to be a useful option in the management of appropriately-selected patients, at centres with experience in its application. Decisions on its use as a bridge to transplantation would need to take account of availability of donor organs and probable deterioration of the patient when use of ECLS is prolonged.

The wide use of *graduated compression stockings* to prevent and treat various clinical conditions is mostly based on empirical grounds. Although evidence supporting their use for specific conditions is inconclusive, medical and nursing practitioners accept their value in clinical practice. There is no consensus on the optimal graduated pressure that should be exerted to prevent and treat conditions related to venous insufficiency.

### ***Information requests***

The Unit received a variety of requests for information (see Appendix D). Provision of information on health technologies is seen as an important part of the Unit's activities.

## **External publications and presentations**

Staff at the Unit completed articles for publication in journals and made a number of presentations to scientific meetings. Details are given in Appendix C.

### **Dissemination activities**

During the year, action was taken to upgrade the information on the HTA program provided on the Internet. The Foundation's website includes structured abstracts of all the refereed assessments, and provision is made for the full text of these reports to be downloaded.

The Unit continued to distribute its reports to a wide range of agencies and health care professionals within the province, in Canada and in other countries. A media conference on the assessment of PEIT attracted considerable interest.



## Work in progress

At the end of March 1998 the following major projects were in progress:

Functional diagnostic imaging in epilepsy.	Expected to be the first of a series of reports on high cost imaging techniques
Diagnostic methods in vaginitis	Requested by Clinical Guidelines Program
Hyperbaric oxygen treatment	Collaborative project with University of Calgary, follows request to Calgary RHA.
Assessment of telemedicine	Coordination of INAHTA project, collaborating with Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment
Ultrasound methods for bone density measurement	Undertaken in view of current interest by Osteoporosis Society of Canada and others
Selective bone density measurement testing	Undertaken following interest by the Clinical Practice Guidelines Program
Effect of health technologies on health expenditure	Long-term joint project with the Institute for Pharmaco-Economics following request from Alberta Health. Initial focus is on technologies in management of acute myocardial infarction.
Intra-ocular lens implants	Request by Consumers' Association of Canada
Bisphosphonates in osteoporosis	Collaboration in a CCOHTA project
Definition of experimental technology	Project, including a Delphi study, undertaken to assist Alberta Health

In addition, Technotes were in preparation on telephone nurse triage services, lung volume reduction surgery and cryosurgery for prostate cancer.

## Appendix A

### Categories of technologies assessed

Type of technology	Number of projects
<b><i>Therapeutic</i></b>	
Pharmaceutical (preventive health)	2
Radiation therapy	2
Ophthalmic	1
Surgical	2
Other therapeutic	2
<b><i>Diagnostic</i></b>	
Imaging	3
Pathology	1
Pressure measurement	1
<b><i>Rehabilitation</i></b>	3
<b><i>Telehealth</i></b>	4
<b><i>ER - adjunctive</i></b>	1



### **Persons associated with the HTA program**

#### ***HTA Unit***

Dr David Hailey, Director Health Technology Assessment  
Ms Christa Harstall, Assistant Director  
Ms Paula Corabian, Research Associate  
Ms Wendy Schneider, Research Associate  
Ms Francisca Swist, Administrative Assistant

Ms Jo-Anne Tomie, Research Associate (May - September, 1997)

#### ***Short term placements***

Dr Maureen Kwankam (March 1998-)  
Dr Joanne Homik (February 1998 -)

#### ***External collaborators***

Ms Sandra Doze, Crossroads Regional Health Authority, Wetaskiwin  
Mr Konrad Fassbender, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics, Edmonton  
Professor Philip Jacobs, Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta  
Mr Craig Mitton, Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary  
Dr Risto Roine, Finnish Office of Health Technology Assessment, Helsinki  
Ms Jennifer Simpson, Alberta Hospital, Ponoka

### Publications and presentations, 1997-98

#### *Health Technology Assessment series:*

- WL Schneider, D Hailey. *Stereotactic radiosurgery: options for Albertans*, March 1998.
- C Harstall. *Dynamic posturography in the rehabilitation of stroke, brain - injured and amputee patients*, February 1998.
- S Doze, J Simpson. *Evaluation of a telepsychiatry pilot project*, November 1997
- J-A Tomie, D Hailey. *Computerized gait analysis in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy and spina bifida*, October 1997.
- D Hailey, P Jacobs. *Assessment of telehealth applications Version 1*, October 1997.

#### *Health Technology Briefs:*

- D Hailey, C Harstall. *Aspirin in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease and colon cancer*, November 1997.
- P Corabian. *Percutaneous ethanol injection therapy as a treatment for hepatic cancer*, May 1997

#### *Tech Notes*

- *Brachytherapy for treatment of prostate cancer*. November 1997.
- *Air plethysmography for venous evaluation*. November 1997
- *Extracorporeal life support (ECLS) for children and adults*. July 1997
- *Graduated compression stockings to prevent and treat venous insufficiency*. April 1997

#### *Information papers*

*Reuse of single-use devices: Electrophysiology catheters*, March 1998

*Reflex sympathetic dystrophy*. March 1998.

#### *Newsletter*

*Tech-Wise - Issue No. 10*, November 1997



### *External publications and presentations*

- Hailey D, Marshall D, Sampietro-Colom L, Rico R., Granados A, Asua J, Jonsson E. International collaboration in health technology assessment . A study of technologies used in management of osteoporosis. *Health Policy* 1998; 43: 233 - 241.
- Hailey D, Harstall C. Posteroventral pallidotomy for Parkinson's Disease: assessment and policy on a technology in transition. *Health Policy*. 1998; 43: 55-64
- D Hailey, D Hanley. "Resolved: That primary prevention of osteoporotic fracture with medical interventions is a lost cause." *Health Research Group Seminar, University of Calgary*, March 1998.
- Fassbender K, Hailey D, Saunders D, Teo K. Determinants and consequences of technological change in health care: acute myocardial infarction (AMI) in Alberta, Canada. *International Conference on Technological Change and Medical Expenditure Growth*, Stanford University, February 1998.
- Hailey D. Some thoughts on international HTA activities. *Notes for a workshop on 'Proposals for international assessment'*, Barcelona, December 1997.
- Hailey D . Health technology assessment. University of Alberta Department of Public Health Sciences, symposium *Current issues in public health sciences*, Edmonton, November 1997.
- Hailey D. The INAHTA project on bone density measurement and associated treatments for fracture prevention - background, process and reactions. *Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, Barcelona, Panel Sessions pp110 - 113, May 1997.
- Harstall C, Hailey D. Determination of the status of new technologies for funding decisions. *Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, Barcelona, May 1997
- Hailey D Trends in health care technologies, *Strategic Direction Committee seminar*, Calgary Regional Health Authority, May 1997.
- Hailey D. The effectiveness of bone density measurement and associated treatments for prevention of fractures -An international health technology assessment. *Canadian Multicentre Osteoporosis Study, Scientific Meeting*, Château Vaudreuil, Québec, April 1997.

## Information requests in 1997-98

The table shows information requests received during 1997-98. The level of the response in terms of time spent is indicated in the final column. Category A = < 1 hour, B = > 1 hour / < half a day, and C = > half a day.

<i>Request from</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Category</i>
Alberta Health	• Canadian Cochrane Centre activities	A
	• YAG lasers	B
	• Trends and issues in biotechnology (x 2)	C,B
	• Literature on hyperbaric oxygen therapy	A
	• Radiosurgery for acoustic neuroma	A
	• Year 2000 problems and medical equipment	B
	• Reflex sympathetic dystrophy.	C
	• Cerezyme for Gaucher's Disease	B
	• Lung volume reduction surgery (x 2)	A, B
	• Chronic fatigue syndrome	B
	• Foldable lens implants	B
	• Cost-effective methods for diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea	B
	• Hyperbaric oxygen for wound healing	C
	• Home phototherapy,	B
Calgary RHA	• HTA on antenatal care	A
	• Cryosurgery for prostate cancer	A
Capital Health.	• Re-use of 'single use' angiography catheters	C
	• Lung volume reduction surgery	B
	• Use of ECMO in adolescents and adults (developed as Technote)	C
	• Bone density measurement technologies	A
East Central RHA.	• Use/cost-effectiveness of streptokinase.	C
	• Emergency hospital services	A
U of Calgary, Dept of Community Health Sciences	• Pharmacoeconomics guidelines	A
	• Statistics on pressure sores (follow on from AHFMR report)	B
U of Calgary, Faculty of Nursing.	• Umbilical cord care	C
	• Gastroscopy	A
	• Publications on MRI.	A
Peace Health Region		
Lethbridge hospital		
Foothills Hospital, (Radiological		



## Sciences and Diagnostic Imaging)

Vegreville health clinic	• Availability of IVF services.	A
	•	
Foothills Hospital (Acute Care), Physician	• Papers on MRI.	A
	• Chelation therapy study	A
SEARCH	• Potential project on home phototherapy	B
	• Intra-hospital multiple patient transfers	A
Consumers' Association of Canada	• Quality of services in relation to volume	C
Pituitary Tumor Network Association of Canada	• Contact details for cancer treatment in Alberta	A
Members of Canadian Osteoporosis Society	• WHO definitions of osteoporosis and osteopenia	B
Madrona X-ray, Nanaimo	• CaMOS/ bone density measurement	A
HSURC, Saskatoon	• Trends in use of fluoroscopy.	A
BCOHTA, Vancouver	• Work in radiosurgery.	A
Manitoba radiologist	• Assessment of telehealth	A
Regina Health District	• Bone density measurement screening	A
Legal Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health	• Efficacy/ safety of ICSI	B
Private lawyer, Nova Scotia	• ICSI	A
New Brunswick Dept of Health & Community Services	• Stereotactic radiosurgery	B
CBC Television, Toronto	• Bone density measurement and drugs for osteoporosis.	B
Centre hospitalier de Buckingham, Quebec	• Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring	A
New Zealand Clearing House, Christchurch	• IT hardware and software configurations	B
	• I.T. organisation and use.	B
UK journalist.	• Applications of dermatoglyphics	A
CAHTA, Barcelona	• Calculation of bone density measurement performance and fracture risk estimates	C
Nova Scotia Department of Health	• AHFMR and terms of reference for HTAAC	A
NZHTA, Christchurch	• Implantable cardiac defibrillators	A
Hungarian Society for Quality Assurance in Health Care	• Bone density measurement screening	A
Ministry of Health, Malaysia	• Implementation of ICD 10.	A
SE Asian HTA Network	• Assessment of MRI	A

Victorian Dept. of Health & Community Services, Australia	• Use of technologies for the over-80's	A
German Cochrane Centre	• Availability of AHFMR data	A
Colombian Health Ministry	• Assessment of the cochlear implant	A
	• Economic evaluation and policy	A
HERG, Brunel University	• Trans - myocardial Revascularization	A
High school and other students	• Matters affecting breathing rates.	A
	• Differences between male and female brains.	A
	• Use of antibiotics to prevent food spoilage	A
(U of Montreal.)	• Organisation of HTA programs	A
Private individuals	• Information on IVF / ICSI	A
	• Treatment of Wilms' Tumour with pulmonary metastases	B
	• Availability of ethanol injection therapy for liver cancer.	A
	• Laser corneal sculpting.	B
	• Silicone implants and mammography	A
	• Bone morphogenic protein in orthopedic applications	A
	• Breast feeding after breast enhancement	A
	• Chelation therapy	B
	• Evaluation framework for technology assessment	A
	• Hyperbaric oxygen treatment for tinnitus	A
	• PVP for diagnosis of essential tremors	A



### Referees / commentators

The following persons acted as referees or provided comments during preparation of the AHFMR reports completed in 1997-98.

Ms. Denize Alcock, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, Vancouver

Ms. Jacqueline Arciniega, American Academy of Neurology, Minneapolis

Dr. Jerry J. Battista, London Regional Cancer Centre/University of Western Ontario, London.

Dr. Vincent Bain, Gastroenterology, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Dr. Neil Bell, Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta

Dr. Alec Black, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, Vancouver

Dr. Lyall Black, East Central Regional Health Authority, Lethbridge

Dr. Robert W. Broad, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton.

Dr. Brenda Brouwer, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Dr. Jeffrey Burton, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta

Ms. Linda Cook, Grant McEwan Community College, Edmonton

Mr. Bernard Crowe, Australian Computer Society, Canberra

Dr. Sam Darwish, Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary.

Ms. Sandra Doze, Crossroads Regional Health Authority, Wetaskiwin

Ms. Sandra Edwards, Grant McEwan Community College, Edmonton

Dr. Steve Edworthy, Alberta Research Council, Edmonton

Dr. Anthony Fields, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton.

Dr. J. Max Findlay, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton.

Mr. Alain Godbout, Institut De Réadaptation De Montréal, Québec

Dr. Joel Goebel, Washington School of Medicine, St. Louis

Dr. Murray Goldstein, United Cerebral Palsy Research & Educational Foundation, Washington, DC

Dr. Desmond Ireland, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Professor Philip Jacobs, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Professor Penny Jennett, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary

Dr. Adrian Jones, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Ms. Allyson Jones, University of Alberta, Edmonton

Dr. Mary Ann Johnson, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Mr. Torben Jørgensen, Danish Public Health Institute, Copenhagen

Ms. Joy Kellian, Heritage Medical Research Clinic, Calgary

Dr. Stephen Kinsman, Spina Bifida Association of America, Washington, DC

Dr. Joseph Kostiuk, Edmonton

Dr. Beth Lange, Calgary

Ms. Pascale Lehoux, Conseil d'évaluation des technologies de la santé du Québec, Montreal

Mr. Denis Lyons, Alberta Health, Edmonton

Dr. Jack A. MacKinnon, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary.

Dr. Murray Maitland , Sports Medicine Centre, University of Calgary

Dr. John McIvor, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Dr. Devidas Menon, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics, Edmonton

Dr. Dimitris Mihailidis, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton.

Dr. Marc Moreau, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Ms. Susan Muirhead, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton

Dr. Stephan Naumann, Bloorview MacMillan Centre, Toronto

Dr. Benno Nigg, Human Performance Laboratory, University of Calgary

Mr. Ed Norwich, North West Territories Department of Health, Yellowknife

Ms. Carol Paisley, Alberta Health, Edmonton.

Dr. Jon F. Peters, NeuroCom International, Inc., Clackamas, Oregon

Mr. Robert A. Philips, Food and Drug Administration, Rockville, Maryland.

Professor Ervin B. Podgorsak, McGill University, Montreal.

Ms. Marilyn Powers, Joint Injury and Arthritis Institute, University of Calgary

Dr. Arthur Prochazka, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Dr. Fiona Robertson, Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh

Dr. George A. Sandison, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary.

Dr. Neil Shepard, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ms. Jennifer Simpson, Alberta Hospital, Ponoka

Dr. Luis Souhami, Montreal General Hospital.

Dr. David P. Spencer Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary.

Ms. Wendy Stark, Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board, Iqaluit

Dr. Kevin Sullivan, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia.

Dr. Mark G. Swain, Liver Unit, University of Calgary.

Mr. John Swiniarski, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edmonton.

Ms. Gerry Toller-Lobe, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton  
Mr. Jim Tsitanidis, Ontario Medical Association, Toronto.  
Mr. Ralph Ulmer, Calgary  
Dr. Raul C. Urtasun, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton.  
Dr. Catherine Viens-Bitker, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris  
Dr. Bryan Ward, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edmonton  
Dr. Joseph Watt, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton  
Dr. Norman Waugh, Scottish Health Purchasing Information Centre, Aberdeen  
Ms. Monica Whitridge, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton  
Ms Judy Woronuk, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton  
Dr. Ron Zernicke, Joint Injury and Arthritis Institute, University of Calgary



## Information on the HTA Program

Information on the HTA program is available on the Foundation's website at <http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca>

Further details on the program and current activities can be obtained from:

Dr. David Hailey (e mail [dhailey@ahfmr.ab.ca](mailto:dhailey@ahfmr.ab.ca)) or  
Ms. Christa Harstall (e mail [charstal@ahfmr.ab.ca](mailto:charstal@ahfmr.ab.ca))  
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Francisca Swist at Tel.: (403) 423-5727, Fax: (403) 429-3509 or E-Mail: [fswist@ahfmr.ab.ca](mailto:fswist@ahfmr.ab.ca)

The inventory of holdings is listed at <http://gate.library.ualberta.ca/>

**Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research**  
**Health Technology Assessment Unit**

**Publications**

**Health Technology Assessments:**

- C Mitton, D Hailey. Hyperbaric oxygen treatment in Alberta, April 1998
- WL. Schneider, D Hailey. Stereotactic radiosurgery: options for Albertans, March 1998.
- C Harstall. *Dynamic posturography in the rehabilitation of stroke, brain - injured and amputee patients*, February 1998.
- S Doze, J Simpson. *Evaluation of a telepsychiatry pilot project*, November 1997
- J-A Tomie, D Hailey. *Computerized gait analysis in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy and spina bifida*, October 1997.
- D Hailey, P Jacobs. *Assessment of telehealth applications Version 1*, October 1997.
- P Corabian. *In vitro fertilization and embryo transfer as a treatment for infertility*, March 1997
- C Harstall, D Hailey. *Posteroventral pallidotomy in Parkinson's disease*, January 1997.
- C Harstall. *Interface pressure measurement systems for management of pressure sores*, September 1996.
- *Alternative interventions survey*, May 1996
- *Alternatives to ethylene oxide/chlorofluorocarbon sterilization*, January 1996

Reports published on behalf of the International Network of Agencies for Health  
Technology Assessment.

INAHTA project on the effectiveness of bone density measurement and associated treatments for prevention of fractures:

- D Hailey, L Sampietro-Colom, D Marshall, Rico R, A Granados, J Asua, T. Sheldon *Statement of findings*. September 1996. (Summary document also available).
- D Hailey. *Background paper one. Methods used in the measurement of bone density*. July 1996
- D Marshall, T Sheldon. *Background paper two. Predictive value of bone densitometry*. July 1996
- L Sampietro-Colom, R Rico, A Granados, J Asua. *Background paper three. A review of the evidence of hormone replacement therapy and calcitonin in reducing bone loss and fractures*. September 1996

**Health technology briefs**

- D Hailey, C Harstall. *Aspirin in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease and colon cancer*, November 1997.
- P Corabian. *Ultrasound measurement of post-void residual urine volume*, August 1996.
- P Corabian. *Percutaneous ethanol injection therapy as a treatment for hepatic cancer*, May 1997

## Tech Notes

- Brachytherapy for treatment of prostate cancer. November 1997
- Air plethysmography for venous evaluation. November 1997
- Extracorporeal life support (ECLS) for children and adults. July 1997
- Graduated compression stockings to prevent and treat venous insufficiency. April 1997
- Radiosurgery in the treatment of malignant melanoma. February 1997
- Vaginoplasty and criteria for M-F sex reassignment surgery. February 1997
- Stem cell transplantation, January 1997
- Phalloplasty, December 1996
- Scanning laser ophthalmoscope for diagnosis and monitoring of glaucoma, December 1996
- Intrathecal Baclofen using an implantable infusion pump, November 1996
- Cord blood transplantation, November 1996
- Availability of thrombolytic therapy in the emergency room, October 1996
- The use of electrical stimulation to promote healing of fractures, October 1996

## Information papers

Reuse of single-use devices: Electrophysiology catheters March 1998

Reflex sympathetic dystrophy March 1998.

## Newsletter

- Tech-Wise - Issue No. 8, August 1996  
Issue No. 9, March 1997  
Issue No. 10, November 1997

## External publications

- Hailey D, Marshall D, Sampietro-Colom L, Rico R., Granados A, Asua J, Jonsson E. International collaboration in health technology assessment . A study of technologies used in management of osteoporosis. *Health Policy* 1998; 43: 233 - 241.
- Hailey D, Harstall C. Posteroventral pallidotomy for Parkinson's Disease: assessment and policy on a technology in transition. *Health Policy*. 1998; 43: 55-64
- Hailey D, Marshall D. Imaging struggles to predict bone fractures. *Diagnostic Imaging Europe*, 1997;13: 26-29, 48.
- Harstall C, Hailey D. *Determination of the status of new technologies for funding decisions*. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of ISTAHC, Barcelona, May 1997 (Abstract)
- Hailey D. *The INAHTA project on bone density measurement and associated treatments for fracture prevention - background, process and reactions*. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of ISTAHC, Barcelona, (Abstract, Panel Sessions pp110 - 113), May 1997.
- Harstall C, Fung F. *Laser uvulopalatoplasty as a treatment for obstructive sleep apnea and snoring* 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of ISTAHC, San Francisco, June 1996. (Poster)





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